Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any arrangement for monitoring incoming and outgoing calls from Srinagar (J&K State) to Delhi and other metropolitan cities and vice-versa;

(b) whether Government have observed any gross misuse of telepohone calls coming from Srinagar Exchange to other part of the country;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what are the names of other States where the telephone calls are being monitored so as to check misuse of calls from telephone exchanges, particularly to metropolitan cities; and

(e) what is the extent of loss suffered by Government due to such misuse of calls in connivance with the telephone operators at various telephone exchanges in the country, during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Smooth flow of traffic and fault rectification of faulty channels is a continues process and the same is done for all routes including J & K also.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) As at (a) above.

(e) It is not possible to quantify extent of loss suffered by Government due to misuse of telephone facility.

Roberry in Post Office of Motihari in Bihar

5382. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minster of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the head Post Office at Motihari town in Bihar was looted by armed dacoits recently;

(b) if so,what are the details thereof; and the amount of losses caused; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide security cover to Post Office in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the night of 24/25-3-94 at about 2 A. M. more than 10 dacoits over-powered night guard and decamped with Rs. 8,43,680/- in cash and four Insured letters for Rs. 500/- after breaking open locks of the post office and Treasury.

(c) Department has reviewed the security measures in all post offices in Bihar. The I. G. of Police Muzaffarpur Range and the Commissiner Tirhut Division have been requested to provide adequate protection to the Govt. properties in the area. Superintendent of Police Motihari has also been requested to provide armed guards to Motihari HPO on regular basis.

New Telephone Exchanges in Rural and Tribal Areas in Gujarat

5383. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up new Telephone Exchanges in rural and tribal areas of Gujarat in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof with location and capacity; and

(c) by when these are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b)(i) 50 new telephone exchanges of capacity less than 100 lines each in rural/tribal areas of Gujarat are planned to be set up during 1994-95.

(ii) As per the existing policy of the Department, location of such exchanges would be decided on the basis of a minimum number of 10 registered paid demands.

(c) These exchanges are likely to be commissioned progressively by 31-3-1995.

Telecommunication Project in Gujarat

5384. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Newsitem appeared in the "Hindu" dated the 28th March, 1994 regarding Telecommunication Project in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the place in the State where the proposed project is to be set up; and

(d) by what time the project is likely to be completed and would start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d) No such Newsitem has come to the notice of the Department so far, however, the details are being ascertained from the field unit and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as available.

Speed Post Corporation

5385. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to form a Speed Post Corporation;

(b) if so, whether Government consider making Hyderabad the hub and centre of this Corporation; and

(c) if not, the reasons for ignoring the central location of Hyderabad.?

THE MINISTER OF SATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Promotions for Telephone Operators

5386. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Telephones, now Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., had formulated a policy for Telephone Operators to give them first and second promotions on completing 10 and 18 years of service respectively in the case of Scheduled Castes and 16 and 26 years respectively in the case of general category employees;

(b) if so, whether Government had set up any monitoring group to ensure implementation of the above policy;

(c) whether the MTNL has been strictly following the above policy of promotion;

(d) if so, the number of Telephone Operators belonging to Scheduled Castes, promoted during last three years; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not implementing the above policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No sir, there is no separate policy in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., (MTNL) for giving promotion to Telephone Operators. Policies of Deptt. of Telecom. for promotion to Telephone Operators are applicable to MTNL staff also. The Department of Telecom's policy envisages that first promotion is considered to Telephone Operators on completion of 16 years of service and second promotion is considered on completion of 26 years of service. If sufficient number of SC/ST candidates are not available as per statutory requirements, then to the extent of short-fall, SC/ST candidates are considered in the order of their seniority provided they have put in minimum 10 years of service for first promotion and minimum 17 years of service for second promotion.

(b) The policy as indicated in answer to (a) above is being monitored by the Government.

(c) The policy as indicated in answer to (a) above is being strictly followed in MTNL.

(d) 104 Scheduled Castes Telephone Operators have been promoted during the last three years.